



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

**Wildlife  
Services**

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## WILDLIFE SERVICES—DELAWARE

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### USDA Resolves Wildlife Conflicts in Delaware

Every day, residents, industries, organizations, and agencies call on Delaware Wildlife Services (WS) for expertise in protecting agriculture, property, natural resources, and human health and safety from damage or threats posed by wildlife. Managed by professional wildlife biologists, WS responds with effective, selective, and humane strategies to resolve wildlife conflicts.

Delaware WS has been called upon by the Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to help businesses, farmers, and residents who are experiencing problems with migratory birds. WS provides technical assistance to resolve conflicts with Canada geese, snow geese, and vultures. WS also works to reduce human safety risks and direct damage to aircraft by providing technical assistance to airports about wildlife management.

#### Major Assistance Activities:

- Providing technical assistance and equipment to alleviate damage by migratory birds
- Reducing wildlife hazards to aviation

#### Top 5 WS Research Projects of Interest to Delaware:

- Defining and reducing wildlife hazards to aviation
- Managing problems caused by vultures
- Evaluating waterfowl as disease, parasite and noxious weed reservoirs
- Improving assessment, sampling and economic methods for wildlife damage management
- Reducing goose damage through avian infertility



### Applying Science & Expertise to Wildlife Challenges

WS offers information, advice, equipment, and materials that enable many people to resolve wildlife conflicts on their own. Often, *technical assistance* can be provided over the phone. WS also provides on-site expertise or *direct assistance* to manage complex wildlife problems that cannot be safely resolved by others. To support this effort, WS conducts *scientific research* across the Nation to develop answers to new problems posed by wildlife and to ensure the program benefits from the latest science and technology.

**Protecting Agriculture**—Delaware's geographic location between the Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware Bay is an attractive and popular stop for many migratory waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway. The Atlantic Flyway Council (AFC) reports that the number of migratory Canada geese and snow geese have steadily increased in the past five years. The AFC also reports that greater numbers of snow geese are damaging coastal salt marsh habitat, as well as agricultural crops they feed on during their over-winter stays. This has placed additional pressure on Delaware's small grain producers who already face crop damage from Canada geese. WS has provided technical assistance to farmers, residents, and golf course managers. These individuals reported approximately \$75,000 in damage due to conflicts with geese.

